(iii) Assistance for procurement of FRP craft, VHF sets, echo-sounder etc. under State plan schemes like in Tamil Nadu, Orissa, etc.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) to (f) The fishermen mainly from Tamil Nadu often cross International Border Line on some occasions unknowingly or inadvertantly due to engine trouble, strong current etc. About 18 incidents of capturing of Indian fishermen and their boats by Sri Lankan Army have been reported since 2000. Mutual discussions at higher diplomatic level between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka are held as and when such incident occur to get the Indian fishermen and their boats released by the Sri Lankan Government at the earliest. Besides, the Government of Tamil Nadu has also initiated a scheme to look after the families of captured fishermen, providing them Rs. 50/- per day per family till the fishermen return to their homes.

Salinity in Kutch area

2863. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether increasing salinity has spelt doom for thousands of farmers living in Kutch area on account of farm land becoming barren; and

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to the poverty stricken farmers of the area who are migrating to towns in search of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Large number of farmers living in Kutch area have been affected by increasing salinity. The problem of salinity ingress in coastal areas of Kutch was examined by a High Level Committee constituted by the State Government under the Chairmanship of Shri K. Shivaraj, the then Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat in 1978 and the committee recommended ingress control work worth Rs. 186 crores.

The Government of Gujarat in principle accepted the recommendations in September, 1992 and the following works have been completed so far:

i. One work of bund (Bandhara) completed.

ii. One tidal ingress (Bharti control) work completed.

iii. 101 check-dams constructed.

iv. One reclamation bund work is in progress.

So far, an expenditure of Rs. 13.80 crores has been incurred by the State Government in taking up these developmental works for saline ingress control in Kutch area.

Assistance for earthquake

†2864. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assistance received by the people of Gujarat till 1st March, 2001 from the country as well as abroad in the wake of the devastating earthquake in the State;

(b) the details of the amount as well as material received from the country, State-wise and from abroad, country-wise;

(c) whether the assistance being received from abroad is in the form of grant only; and

(d) if not, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Various States and Union Territories and a number of countries & international organizations have assisted the Government of Gujarat in the form of cash and kind, in the wake of earthquake of 26th January, 2001. Statements indicating the assistance provided by States & Union Territories and other countries and international organizations are at Statements I & II *(See* below).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.